

The Lake Cities Volunteer Fire Department started in 1959 with several concerned citizens getting together a volunteer service to provide safety and fire protection for their cities.

Over the past 50 years the department has undergone numerous changes, culminating in the city of Corinth taking control of the department in 2008 and contracting with the other cities for service. Today the department staffs trained first responders, 2 fire engines and 2 ambulances. Each day the department strives to deliver the highest level of professional service to its residents.

It is with great honor that I recognize the 50th anniversary of the Lake Cities Fire Department. The service and dedication of both the volunteer and paid firemen have kept these cities safe for 50 years. I am proud to represent the department and the brave men and women who serve there.

REMEMBERING SANDRA OTAKA,
THE FIRST ASIAN-AMERICAN
ELECTED COOK COUNTY JUDGE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and contributions of Judge Sandra Otaka, a constituent of mine and a dear friend, who died on June 6. Judge Otaka is remembered not just for her brilliant legal career but for a life committed to fighting for equality and justice for all. She died too soon and she will be greatly missed.

Judge Otaka was appointed to the bench of the Illinois Supreme Court in 2000. In 2002, she was elected as the first Asian-American to be Cook County Judge, serving in the children protection court. While that accomplishment was extraordinary, it was just one of many exemplary moments in her career.

Born the daughter and granddaughter of Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in U.S. internment camps during World War II, Sandra Otaka dedicated her life to fighting for justice. As a child, she campaigned against the Vietnam War. During college, she worked at a law firm that successfully overturned the conviction of Fred Korematsu, a Japanese-American imprisoned in 1944 for failing to report to an internment camp. Throughout her adult life, she worked tirelessly to represent those who too often had no voice.

Judge Otaka was an inspiration not only to Asian-Americans in Chicago, but to legions of others, including me. I loved and respected her deeply not only for her brilliant mind, but for her tremendous heart. The outpouring of sorrow and the sense of loss are a testament to Sandra's gift for befriending people and touching their lives in ways big and small. While all of us who were Sandra's friends will miss her terribly, we can find some comfort in our memories of that beautiful, vibrant and vital woman whom we were so fortunate to have in our lives, albeit for too brief a time.

My heart goes out today to her beloved son Jeffrey. Jeffrey was the center of Sandra's life and she was absolutely devoted to him. She talked about him and his accomplishments often, and Sandra always had a photo ready

to share. I also extend my condolences to her sister Susan, and all of Sandra's family and friends whom she loved dearly and who loved her in return. Judge Otaka made our community and our nation a better place. I and so many people in Chicago are indeed fortunate to have had her in our lives.

IN HONOR OF THE 2009 LITERACY
COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIR-
GINIA AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the 2009 Literacy Council of Northern Virginia Awards.

Founded in 1962, The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is a non-profit educational organization that recruits and trains volunteers to teach adults who need help reading, writing, speaking and understanding the English language.

The Literacy Council provides a wide range of programs including programs for English speaking adults who need help with reading and writing, ESOL programs for those in our community for whom English is not their native language and Family Learning Programs to teach English proficiency to parents and their children who are between the ages of two and 12.

Each year, The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia recognizes a few of its outstanding adult learners, volunteers and/or community partners. This year, a special award will be given to student essay contest winners, the theme of which was "Hope for the Future". It is my great honor to recognize the following recipients of the 2009 Literacy Council of Northern Virginia Awards:

Recipients of the Community Partners Awards are: Alexandria Community Trust, The Wish You Well Foundation, and the Richard Byrd Library (Fairfax County).

Recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Awards are: Kay Habeger, Michael Wolff and Monica Simone.

Recipients of the Student Essay Contest Awards are: Jieun Jang, Albert Costanzo, Wei Yang Tsai, Gloria Cruz, Hala Elnoby, and Deepa Kulkarni.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions of The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia and congratulating each of the 2009 Award recipients. Their dedication, hard work and commitment improves the quality of life for the students as well as the community by providing the program participants with the life skills that are necessary to become an active and productive member of society.

RECOGNIZING THE MAYOR J.
ROBERT HUNSICKER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor J. Rob-

ert Hunsicker. He has served the town of Perkasio, Pennsylvania as Mayor for the past decade.

A lifelong resident of Perkasio, Mayor Hunsicker has been active in his community for years. He grew up working for his father's butter and egg business in town, and graduated from Sell-Perk High school in 1945. He served as a Justice of the Peace from 1955 to 1969, and then as a district justice from 1970 until his retirement to a senior judge position in 1993. In this role, the Mayor had the opportunity to serve on most courts in Bucks County.

Described by colleagues as Perkasio's biggest fan and loudest cheerleader, the Mayor has been a champion for the many programs that represent his hometown. This includes the Perkasio Park System, where free arts and cultural events are held weekly during the summer months. One of Mayor Hunsicker's dreams has been the construction of a new band shell in which to house these community events. During his time in office, the Mayor has also partnered with the neighboring town of Sellersville to oversee the successful merging of the towns' two police departments.

Mayor Hunsicker will retire later this month in order to enjoy some well-deserved time with his six children and six grandchildren, and will of course remain involved in the Perkasio community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Mayor J. Robert Hunsicker for his admirable lifelong service. I am honored to serve as his Congressman. Congratulations on the dedication of their headquarters today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform, I am committed to protecting taxpayers' money and providing greater transparency and a fully accountable process. H.R. 2847, The Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP
Account: COPS-Methamphetamine Enforcement and Clean-up Grants

Legal Name Requesting Entity: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation-Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force

Address: 901 R.S. Gass Blvd.—Nashville, TN 37216-2369, c/o 1110 Market Street, Suite 332, Chattanooga, TN 37402

Description of Request: The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force requested funding to train and equip local law enforcement officers throughout the State of Tennessee in a cooperative effort to combat the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine, both domestic and foreign, in Tennessee. Twenty-four hour response will be provided to state and local law enforcement agencies fighting the epidemic. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigations and the Tennessee Meth Task Force received \$2 million to supplement the lack of funding for preventing illegal methamphetamine use.